

The Lake Cities Volunteer Fire Department started in 1959 with several concerned citizens getting together a volunteer service to provide safety and fire protection for their cities.

Over the past 50 years the department has undergone numerous changes, culminating in the city of Corinth taking control of the department in 2008 and contracting with the other cities for service. Today the department staffs trained first responders, 2 fire engines and 2 ambulances. Each day the department strives to deliver the highest level of professional service to its residents.

It is with great honor that I recognize the 50th anniversary of the Lake Cities Fire Department. The service and dedication of both the volunteer and paid firemen have kept these cities safe for 50 years. I am proud to represent the department and the brave men and women who serve there.

REMEMBERING SANDRA OTAKA,  
THE FIRST ASIAN-AMERICAN  
ELECTED COOK COUNTY JUDGE

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and contributions of Judge Sandra Otaka, a constituent of mine and a dear friend, who died on June 6. Judge Otaka is remembered not just for her brilliant legal career but for a life committed to fighting for equality and justice for all. She died too soon and she will be greatly missed.

Judge Otaka was appointed to the bench of the Illinois Supreme Court in 2000. In 2002, she was elected as the first Asian-American to be Cook County Judge, serving in the children protection court. While that accomplishment was extraordinary, it was just one of many exemplary moments in her career.

Born the daughter and granddaughter of Japanese Americans who were imprisoned in U.S. internment camps during World War II, Sandra Otaka dedicated her life to fighting for justice. As a child, she campaigned against the Vietnam War. During college, she worked at a law firm that successfully overturned the conviction of Fred Korematsu, a Japanese-American imprisoned in 1944 for failing to report to an internment camp. Throughout her adult life, she worked tirelessly to represent those who too often had no voice.

Judge Otaka was an inspiration not only to Asian-Americans in Chicago, but to legions of others, including me. I loved and respected her deeply not only for her brilliant mind, but for her tremendous heart. The outpouring of sorrow and the sense of loss are a testament to Sandra's gift for befriending people and touching their lives in ways big and small. While all of us who were Sandra's friends will miss her terribly, we can find some comfort in our memories of that beautiful, vibrant and vital woman whom we were so fortunate to have in our lives, albeit for too brief a time.

My heart goes out today to her beloved son Jeffrey. Jeffrey was the center of Sandra's life and she was absolutely devoted to him. She talked about him and his accomplishments often, and Sandra always had a photo ready

to share. I also extend my condolences to her sister Susan, and all of Sandra's family and friends whom she loved dearly and who loved her in return. Judge Otaka made our community and our nation a better place. I and so many people in Chicago are indeed fortunate to have had her in our lives.

IN HONOR OF THE 2009 LITERACY  
COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIR-  
GINIA AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the 2009 Literacy Council of Northern Virginia Awards.

Founded in 1962, The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is a non-profit educational organization that recruits and trains volunteers to teach adults who need help reading, writing, speaking and understanding the English language.

The Literacy Council provides a wide range of programs including programs for English speaking adults who need help with reading and writing, ESOL programs for those in our community for whom English is not their native language and Family Learning Programs to teach English proficiency to parents and their children who are between the ages of two and 12.

Each year, The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia recognizes a few of its outstanding adult learners, volunteers and/or community partners. This year, a special award will be given to student essay contest winners, the theme of which was "Hope for the Future". It is my great honor to recognize the following recipients of the 2009 Literacy Council of Northern Virginia Awards:

Recipients of the Community Partners Awards are: Alexandria Community Trust, The Wish You Well Foundation, and the Richard Byrd Library (Fairfax County).

Recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Awards are: Kay Habeger, Michael Wolff and Monica Simone.

Recipients of the Student Essay Contest Awards are: Jieun Jang, Albert Costanzo, Wei Yang Tsai, Gloria Cruz, Hala Elnoby, and Deepa Kulkarni.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions of The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia and congratulating each of the 2009 Award recipients. Their dedication, hard work and commitment improves the quality of life for the students as well as the community by providing the program participants with the life skills that are necessary to become an active and productive member of society.

RECOGNIZING THE MAYOR J.  
ROBERT HUNSICKER

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor J. Rob-

ert Hunsicker. He has served the town of Perkasio, Pennsylvania as Mayor for the past decade.

A lifelong resident of Perkasio, Mayor Hunsicker has been active in his community for years. He grew up working for his father's butter and egg business in town, and graduated from Sell-Perk High school in 1945. He served as a Justice of the Peace from 1955 to 1969, and then as a district justice from 1970 until his retirement to a senior judge position in 1993. In this role, the Mayor had the opportunity to serve on most courts in Bucks County.

Described by colleagues as Perkasio's biggest fan and loudest cheerleader, the Mayor has been a champion for the many programs that represent his hometown. This includes the Perkasio Park System, where free arts and cultural events are held weekly during the summer months. One of Mayor Hunsicker's dreams has been the construction of a new band shell in which to house these community events. During his time in office, the Mayor has also partnered with the neighboring town of Sellersville to oversee the successful merging of the towns' two police departments.

Mayor Hunsicker will retire later this month in order to enjoy some well-deserved time with his six children and six grandchildren, and will of course remain involved in the Perkasio community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Mayor J. Robert Hunsicker for his admirable lifelong service. I am honored to serve as his Congressman. Congratulations on the dedication of their headquarters today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2009*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform, I am committed to protecting taxpayers' money and providing greater transparency and a fully accountable process. H.R. 2847, The Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP  
Account: COPS-Methamphetamine Enforcement and Clean-up Grants

Legal Name Requesting Entity: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation-Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force

Address: 901 R.S. Gass Blvd.—Nashville, TN 37216-2369, c/o 1110 Market Street, Suite 332, Chattanooga, TN 37402

Description of Request: The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force requested funding to train and equip local law enforcement officers throughout the State of Tennessee in a cooperative effort to combat the manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine, both domestic and foreign, in Tennessee. Twenty-four hour response will be provided to state and local law enforcement agencies fighting the epidemic. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigations and the Tennessee Meth Task Force received \$2 million to supplement the lack of funding for preventing illegal methamphetamine use.

## Distribution of funding:

Personnel—8%

Benefits—3%

Travel—8%

Equipment—16%

Supplies—25%

Contract law enforcement officers—31%

Training—9%

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP

Account: Department of Justice Byrne Discretionary Grant Program

Legal Name Requesting Entity: City of Chattanooga

Address: 101 East 11th Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402

Description of Request: The Mayor and City Council of Chattanooga have requested funding to move and equip a law enforcement firing range. In 2003, President Bush signed legislation establishing the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District at the location where the current range has been used for police training for decades. The formation of the national park and the planned visitor center requires that the firing range be moved to another site. The Mayor and City of Chattanooga received \$500,000 to offset part of the expense associated with the relocation.

## Distribution of funding:

Facility renovation—30%

Equipment—50%

Technology—20%

## TRIBUTE TO HOWARD NICHOLS

## HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2009*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Howard Nichols, an Army veteran, a distinguished teacher, and the Headmaster at The Harker School in San Jose, California. Mr. Nichols passed away from esophageal cancer on December 31, 2008.

During his 32 years as Headmaster of The Harker School, Howard Nichols played a critical role in helping so many young people and his presence is greatly missed today. The following obituary was published in the San Jose Mercury News on January 1, 2009:

"To describe Howard Nichols as the heart and soul of Harker School barely captures the magnitude of the role that the retired headmaster played at the San Jose private school.

"Mr. Nichols also was the visionary, architect, recruiter and administrator who built Harker into a prestigious academic powerhouse. He got to know each child and family, helped teachers find housing and seldom saw a piece of litter on campus he didn't pick up. A product of Harker's predecessor, the Palo Alto Military Academy, Mr. Nichols was a passionate educator who, without a teaching credential, created the largest K-12 independent school in California.

"Mr. Nichols died Dec. 31 of esophageal cancer. He was 68.

"His door at Harker always was open to staff, parents and students and visitors—who, while stopping by to talk, often could help themselves to a chocolate chip cookie, perhaps still warm from the school kitchen, said his wife, Diana Nichols.

"Howard was one of the most compassionate people I've ever met," said John Near,

a Harker history teacher whom Mr. Nichols hired 30 years ago. Mr. Nichols considered Harker a family, and instilled that sense of caring in students, Near said.

"Mr. Nichols was born in Bremerton, Washington, and moved to the Oakland area as an infant. In second grade he moved to the Peninsula when his father, Major Donald Nichols, took over the Palo Alto Military Academy. The young Mr. Nichols was a boarder at the Parkinson Street campus, and went home to Los Altos on the weekends. His mother, Jean Fisher, ran a restaurant in Los Altos.

"Mr. Nichols attended Palo Alto High School and Stanford University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in economics. He served two years in the Army, then joined the staff at his father's school. But in the Vietnam era, the military and military schools were falling out of favor. The Palo Alto Military Academy merged with neighboring Miss Harker's School for Girls and moved to San Jose. Mr. Nichols became headmaster in 1973.

"In 1981, Mr. Nichols married Diana Olsen, then a principal at Harker.

"The school expanded to three campuses, one for each level, and eliminated its dormitories to accommodate the high school expansion. Today, it has about 1,750 students in grades K-12.

"Mr. Nichols' skill as a listener, understanding parents' needs, informed his vision for the school, Diana Nichols said. With more dual-worker families, Harker offered after-school programs in sports, art and music, then uncommon among private schools. 'The complaint that people have about private schools in general was that it wasn't a neighborhood school. This created the neighborhood,' Diana Nichols said.

"Mr. Nichols also believed that the heart of a good school lies in good teachers, and he recruited nationwide for Harker staff.

"'He really made everybody feel valued. He used to put his hand on your shoulder and say, 'We're lucky to have you,'" said Chris Nikoloff who took over from Mr. Nichols as head of school. The Nicholoses retired in 2005, but continued to consult for the school and serve on the board.

"Mr. Nichols also believed in having fun. He'd challenge students to a contest, such as raising funds for a charity, and if students won, teachers and administrators would pay off by, for example, jumping fully clothed into the school swimming pool. He also created a culture of respect and caring at school, staff recalled.

"'He was a generous and kind man,' said graduate Sehba Ali Zhumkhawala, founder and principal of KIPP Heartwood charter school in San Jose. 'Certainly he was one of the inspirational folks who made me want to go into education.'

"Mr. Nichols also was an athlete, who did 100 push-ups a day until he became too ill three months ago.

"'He was a really noble man,' Diana Nichols said. 'He's irreplaceable.'

Madam Speaker, I ask that the entire House of Representatives join me in extending our sympathy to The Harker School and the Nichols family. The work of Howard Nichols at The Harker School will never be forgotten and will continue on in the lives of the many students he inspired as a teacher and Headmaster.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2009*

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend a vote. Had I been present, my vote would have been "yea" on final passage of H.R. 626, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY  
BOUND STUDENTS

## HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to salute our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of tomorrow—the service academy bound students of the Third District of the Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people. I'm truly confident that they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. It is a privilege to send such fine young people on to our nation's prestigious service academies.

We lift these young leaders and their families up in prayer for their future service and sacrifices. I am so very proud of them. God bless them and God bless America. I salute them. The appointees and their schools follow.

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE ACADEMY  
APPOINTMENTS

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Matthew Burnham (Plano West Senior High School), Darrell Dancy (USAF Prep School—From McKinney), Stephen Hunter (Allen High School), Zachary Matthews (Frisco High School), Christine Molina (Ursuline Academy of Dallas—From Dallas), Chad Moore (Home School—From Plano), and Spencer Wood (Frisco High School).

## UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Richard Hansen (Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas—From Richardson), Joshua Koeppe (Prince of Peace Christian School—From Plano), Joseph Ramos (Sachse High School), Jan Redmond (Plano East Senior High School), Zachary Ricketts (St. Benedict at Auburndale—From Parker), Jeff Yao (Plano Senior High School), and Jacek Zapendowski (St. Mark's School of Texas—From Richardson).

## UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Jonathan Espinoza (North Garland High School), Tyler LeCocq (Frisco Centennial High School), and Brian Nichols (Plano Senior High School).

## UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Jonathan Alston (Plano Senior High School), John Aselton (Plano Senior High School), Lauren Carpenter (Plano East Senior High School), Jacob Coffey (McKinney Boyd High School), Tyler Mapes (Newman Smith High School—From Plano), Christopher Martinez (Cistercian Preparatory School—From Plano), and Michael Schmeck (John Paul II High School—From Plano).